

## Patent Claims

1. A method of increasing the long-term stability of components of an exhaust system, in particular, catalysts for purifying the exhaust gases of internal combustion engines, wherein the exhaust gas is purified with respect to volatile phosphorus compounds before contact with the components or before entering the catalyst.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the volatile phosphorus compounds in the exhaust gas are removed by reactions with metals or metal compounds which form solid metal-phosphorus compounds with the volatile phosphorus compounds.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein calcium or a calcium compound is used as the metal or metal compound.
4. The method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the metal or metal compound for conversion with the volatile phosphorus compound is metered into the exhaust gas upstream of the catalyst.
5. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a metal or a metal compound, which leads to the formation of a solid metal-phosphorus compound in the exhaust gas, is added to the engine oil and/or to the fuel of the internal combustion engine.
6. A device for carrying out the method as claimed in claims 1 to 3, having an absorber for absorbing the

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volatile phosphorus compounds before the exhaust gas enters the catalyst.

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